

Great Thanksgiving

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Communion

pages 496 and 497

Prayer After Communion

God of mercy, God of grace, we bless and praise you for nourishing us with this Easter feast of redemption. Fill us with your Spirit, and make us living signs of your love; through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

Community Sharing

Offering

Hymn Of Response We Give Thee But Thine Own 360

Hymn Of Dismissal I Come With Joy (*ps. 3-5*) URW 120

Dismissal With Blessing

Go in the peace and power of the Risen Christ, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

We are sent in the power of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia!

Next Week's Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Preaching This Week: Ben Wayman **Preaching Next Week:** Niquita Hohm

Celebrant: Niquita Hohm **Acolytes:** Caitie McPeak, Brooke Wayman

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church

Fifth Sunday Of Easter

Call To Worship

Lift Your Glad Voices

Insert

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn Of Praise

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

335

Prayer

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the

eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Hymn

Thou True Vine

Insert

Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached

perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

URW 370

Gospel

John 15:1-8

R: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

R: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People

The Peace

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us take a few moments to greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

Doxology

GODLY PLAY TRAINING OPTIONS

If you'd enjoy spending an hour Sunday mornings **sharing the stories of God and the Church's traditions with our children**, you might belong on our Godly Play team! Godly Play **Training (required)** is offered this spring/summer in **Chicago (May 4-6—registration closes TOMORROW)**, **Dayton, OH (Aug 2-4)**, and (closest of all) **Bloomington, IN (Aug. 24-26)**. All costs—training, transportation, lodging and meals—are covered by **St. Paul's**. Please contact Georgann Kurtz-Shaw (georgann.kurtz-shaw@greenville.edu) or Pastor Ben (ben.wayman@greenville.edu) for more information.

CELEBRATING GRADUATES NEXT SUNDAY!

During worship next Sunday, May 6, we will **recognize and celebrate** our (high school and university) **graduating seniors**, and **honor our outgoing sexton, Kat Westbrook**.

“LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING!”

You're invited to a **free concert TODAY** at 4pm in **Whitlock Music Center**, featuring Robert Ray's **GOSPEL MASS**.

Performers include the **GU Choir** and **Chamber Singers**, and the **Bond County High School Select Choir**, along with Nathan Moll (electric bass), Brandon Brown (drums), Nick Watterson and Jiwon Park (piano), and the Highland High School Madrigal Singers.

CHANGE IN POTLUCK SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Given that the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day, we will meet for our **May potluck** following worship on the **third Sunday in May, May 20**, instead of our normal “second Sunday.”

275 Lift your glad voices

RESURRECTION 11 11 11 11 (irregular)

1 Lift your glad voic - es in tri - umph on high,
2 He burst from the fet - ters of dark - ness that bound him,
3 Glo - ry to God, in full an - thems of joy;
4 But Je - sus hath cheered the dark val - ley of sor - row,

for Je - sus hath ris - en, and we shall not die.
re - splend - ent in glo - ry, to live and to save.
the be - ing he gave us, death can - not de - stroy.
and bade us, im - mor - tal, to heav - en as - cend.

Vain were the ter - rors that gath - ered a - round him,
Loud was the cho - rus of an - gels on high,
Sad were the life we may part with to - mor - row,
Lift then your voic - es in tri - umph on high,

and short the do - min - ion of death and the grave.
the Sav - ior hath ris - en, and we shall not die.
if tears were our birth - right, and death were our end.
for Je - sus hath ri - sen, and we shall not die.

373 Thou true Vine, that heals

PLEADING SAVIOR 87. 87D

1 Thou true Vine, that heals the na-tions, Tree of life, thy
 2 Noth-ing can we do with-out thee; on thy life de-

branch-es we. They who leave thee fade and with-er,
 pends each one. If we keep thy words and love thee,

none bear fruit ex-cept in thee. Cleanse us, make us sane and
 all we ask for shall be done. May we, lov-ing one an-

sim-ple, till we merge our lives in thine, gain our-
 oth-er, ra-diant in thy light a-bide; so through-

selves in thee, the Vin-tage, give our-selves through thee, the Vine.
 us, made fruit-ful by thee, shall our God be glo-ri-fied.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS FAMILY CAMP

Gateway's 2018 Family Camp Week runs June 9-15, and includes daily activities for all ages. Featured speaker is **Rev. Denny Wayman**, lead superintendent of the Southern California Conference and honorary member of St. Paul's! Register online (only) at: <http://durleycamp.org/family-camp>

DURLEY YOUTH CAMPING

Gateway Conference's Durley Camp will offer a full calendar of summer camping for individual youth campers as well as families (see above). **Partial scholarships are available for youth campers!**—please email stpaulsfmc@gmail.com ASAP for information. Register for 2018 youth camp(s) on the website (only) at: <http://durleycamp.org/youth-camps>

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for **Sunday School at 10a** in the Fellowship Hall for stimulating discussion of the **lectionary psalm** of the day, led by **Matt Zahniser**.

WELCOMING OUR CHILDREN TO GODLY PLAY

Our **preschool and elementary-age (3+)** children gather for **Godly Play Sundays at 9:45a at the pew outside the Godly Play room door**. Here they will be creatively and imaginatively engaged with the church's stories, rituals and rites, preparing for the worship and life of the church.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preteens and teens meet for Sunday School in the **mural room and the Teen SS room** with **Pastor Niquita and Kat Westbrook**.

ST. PAUL'S PRAYS WITHOUT CEASING

Morning Prayer continues **Monday-Friday 7:30-8:00a** in the Sanctuary, with prayer, Scripture and Communion.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN BOND COUNTY

Our local food pantry always welcomes donations, especially **soup, cereal, canned vegetables and canned meat**. You may place donations of food (also **toiletries**) in the **food pantry box** in the mural room.